

Education Issue

Giving our Teachers a Helping Hand

According to the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future (NCTAF) the number one issue affecting student test scores is teacher quality.

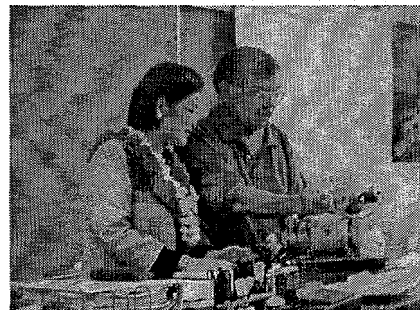
NCTAF was first formed in 1994 with the mission of providing an action agenda for meeting the nation's educational challenges.

After two years of intense study, the National Commission concluded that the teaching profession had suffered decades of neglect and teacher education had been poorly financed, among other ailments.

In response to the findings, NCTAF developed a blueprint on teacher quality to address problems plaguing education systems across the country such as recruiting, preparing, supporting and rewarding excellent educators, and implemented its plan in six states.

This blueprint centers around five distinct areas that have proven crucial in the improvement of teacher quality. NCTAF partner states have implemented legislation that has increased and equalized salaries, raised licensing standards, created teacher mentoring programs and invested in professional development.

On June 1, Hawaii officially



Lt. Governor Hirono learns about the "pressure phenomenon" from Maui High School teacher Edwin Ginoza.

joined 19 other partner states in this nationwide effort with Lieutenant Governor Mazie Hirono chairing the Hawaii Policy Group.

Hirono said the group's mission is to develop a teacher quality strategic plan for Hawaii that can be implemented at different levels to ensure that our teachers will be qualified, caring and competent.

"We need to do this for our kids," Hirono said. "I have every expectation that the Policy Group will produce a solid plan that will work for our teachers - ultimately benefitting our students."

The Policy Group includes a staff researcher and 17 volunteer members representing a spectrum of educational community leaders including: Supt. Paul LeMahieu; chairs of the education legislative committees; and representatives from the Hawaii Government Employees' Association, State Parent Teacher Student Association, State Teachers Association, U H College of Education and Board of Education.



Message from Lt. Governor Mazie Hirono



Lt. Governor Mazie Hirono



Aloha! Supporting our schools — students, teachers and administrators alike — is a priority for me.

I've taken an active role in the planning for the future of our teachers and Hawaii's students.

I've visited many of our schools and talked with hundreds of our students, administrators and teachers. I understand the challenges we face as we work together to engage young minds and prepare Hawaii's 21st century work force.

School may be out for summer, but I assure you that I continue to work hard to find ways to help improve Hawaii's education system.

I often find the best resource for

information about the state of our schools is our teachers.

They know firsthand what works and what doesn't work in the classroom, and can offer keen insight on how to make significant improvements. I encourage Hawaii's teachers to share their ideas with me on what improvements can be made as we move forward.

Working together for the future of education in our state is a critical mission for Hawaii and I invite you to join us.

Aloha,



(l. to r.) Rep. Sylvia Luke, Lt Gov. Mazie Hirono, Virginia and Barry Weinman, Sen. Les Ihara, UH Pres. Ken Moritmer. (not pictured: Sen. Norman Sakamoto and Dean McClain.)

UH Receives \$1.1 M gift

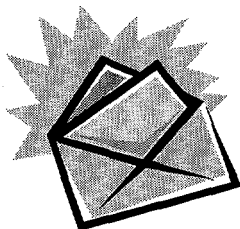
Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono joined UH officials and fellow UH Connections board members in accepting a \$1.1 million gift from Barry and Virginia Weinman, launching the university's new Center for Entrepreneurship and E-commerce. Barry Weinman is on the board of UH Connections, a group originated by Lt. Governor Hirono.



Lt. Gov. Hirono joins Washington Middle School students for dinner at Ohana Night 2000.

Ohana Night 2000

Lt. Gov. Hirono joined Washington Middle School parents and students for dinner during Ohana Night 2000 on May 11. Family night is organized annually as an evening of food and fun for middle school families, WMS was named as a National Service-Learning Leader School on May 1.



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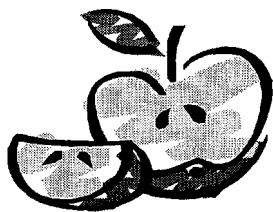
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S.O.S. . . . Supporting Our Schools



Lt. Governor Hirono visited teacher Sue Loudon's director's class at Baldwin High School on Maui.



Internships available in the Office of the Lt. Governor. Contact 586-0255 for details!

On a recent trip to Maui, Lt. Governor Mazie Hirono experienced firsthand the "pressure phenomenon" as presented by Maui High School teacher Edwin Ginoza in his science class.

Later the same day, she met students in Sue Loudon's director's class. Loudon has been teaching at Baldwin High School for 36 years and has developed her drama curriculum to include teaching the art of directing performances. Loudon has been named Maui District

Teacher of the Year for 2001.

Lt. Governor Hirono said each time she visits a school, she is energized by the creativity of the students and teachers.

"All across the state, students are doing great things in our schools," Hirono said. "And we have great teachers to thank."

"All across the state, students are doing great things in our schools," Hirono said. "And, we have terrific, committed teachers all over the state who inspire our students to learn."

Also on her Maui trip, Lt. Governor Hirono met students at Lihikai Elementary, where she joined District Superintendent Paul Brown and students for lunch.

Volunteerism: Contribute to your Community

According to a survey conducted by the National Association of Secretaries of State, youth volunteerism is on the rise and at record high levels.

Lt. Governor Mazie Hirono, a vocal supporter of service learning, encourages everyone to get involved in making a difference by volunteering.

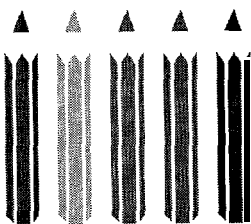
On Earth Day, she rolled up her sleeves and joined dozens of volunteers to clean up and beautify Diamond Head Memorial Peace Garden.

Hirono regularly volunteers her time for charitable causes throughout the state.



Lt. Gov. Hirono plants a tree with Rep. Brian Schatz and aide Jill Tokuda on Earth Day.

Ready to Learn drop site



Lt. Governor Mazie Hirono is sponsoring a Ready to Learn drop site in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor beginning June 6. Ready to Learn is a program that collects donated school supplies for students in need. This

year's program hopes to reach 30,000 students statewide and provide them with needed supplies when school begins next year. Ready to Learn's chairs are U. S. Senator Daniel Inouye and Maggie Inouye.

Connections

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MAZIE ON THE MOVE

This month, Lt. Governor Mazie Hirono leads a delegation to Washington, D.C. to emphasize the importance of military-related matters to our state and the well-being of the people of Hawaii.

On June 10, Hirono will join the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii's Military Affairs Council in a mission to underscore the importance of Hawaii's strategic military presence in the Pacific.

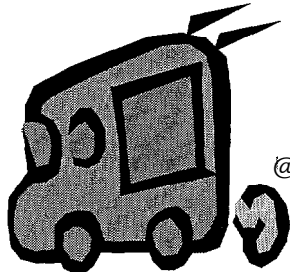
Hirono is scheduled to meet with Pentagon officials, representatives from each

branch of the military and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

While in Washington, Hirono will also meet with federal transportation and state department officials to further discuss the internationalization of Haneda Airport in Japan.

Hirono says opening Haneda is key to boosting tourism from Asia, as it will increase seat capacity to Hawaii, provide

U.S. air carriers slots into Tokyo and provide a convenient alternative for travelers.



Happenings:

Washington, D.C.

June 10-17; Lt. Governor Hirono leads a delegation of Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii members to D.C. to discuss military issues.

Oahu June 20; 83rd Annual Lions Clubs International Convention Parade down Kalakaua Avenue.

Big Island June 23; KIAA installation banquet at Wailoa State Park

SWAT Awards The deadline for entries is June 30.